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**STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE
ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK**

November 16-20, 2009

As we celebrate the tenth annual International Education Week, the U.S. Department of State joins the U.S. Department of Education in recognizing the importance of fostering mutual respect and understanding among people in all countries.

During International Education Week, we recognize the benefits of an American education for international students, and the value of studying abroad for American students. Each year, individuals, schools, universities, non-profit organizations, community groups, and businesses around the world celebrate International Education Week by organizing, hosting, or attending events in their local communities.

This year, we hope to engage more people than ever before in our recognition of international education as a key to economic progress around the world. I encourage the American people to become involved in International Education Week, and share information about your own community events on our iew.state.gov website.

International educational exchanges help students and educators around the world to understand one another better. Together, we must respond to the challenges of poverty and hunger, climate change, public health, and economic revitalization. Education is an engine for change in all countries and for all people, including women and girls, whose potential to contribute to global progress and prosperity is enhanced when they participate in educational opportunities.

Through international educational exchanges, we can build bridges of respect and understanding that will connect people and enable us to work together, now and in the future, for a better world.


Hillary Rodham Clinton

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